

“middle stop, right stop, left stop,” and “middle stop, left stop, right stop” are prepared and arrangements are made so that winning is not generated unless operation is performed exactly according to the operation order of the stop table selected by the random number lottery.

[0013] When Super Time (ST) game occurs, the order in which reels are to be stopped (stop buttons are to be operated) is notified by back lamps provided in the interior of the respective reels, lamps provided in correspondence to the respective reels, or a liquid crystal display device, dot display device, or other image display device, an audio output generated from a speaker, etc. For example, in the case where the stopping order is notified by use of back lights, the back light of the reel to be stopped is turned on and the other back lights of the other reels are turned off to indicate the reel (stop button) that is to be subject to a stopping operation.

[0014] However, in a case where the means of stopping order notification is an image display device or lamp, etc., since a player needs to perform the reel stopping operation upon checking the indication contents displayed by the image display device or lamp and cannot avoid performing a sight movement from “display device” to “reel”, fatigue may be increased by playing in the Super Time (ST) gaming state.

[0015] Also, in the case of stopping order notification by audio means, the notified contents may not be heard well due to game sound generated by gaming machines in the surroundings, for example, when the bonus game is occurring at an adjacent gaming machine.

[0016] In the case of stopping order notification by means of reel back lights, though the sight line movement, difficulty of hearing an audio output, etc., do not occur, it is difficult to recognize whether or not a back light is lit in a case where the illumination of a parlor is comparatively bright, etc.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0017] An object of the present invention is to provide a gaming machine, with which a large amount of coins are paid out upon indication of an operation method that is advantageous to a player, wherein the contents of the indication are notified to the player infallibly and enables a game to be carried out agreeably.

[0018] According to the present invention, a gaming machine comprises; variable display means for varyingly displaying a plurality of symbols; lottery means for executing a lottery of prize patterns; stop control means for controlling and stopping the above-mentioned varying display; stop control selection means for selecting the type of control of the above-mentioned stop control means upon referencing the result of the above-mentioned lottery; shielding means which is disposed in front of the above-mentioned variable display means; and shielding control means for controlling the above-mentioned shielding means between in a state enabling a player to visually recognize the above-mentioned symbols and in a state disabling the player from visually recognizing the above-mentioned symbols in accordance with the contents of selection by the above-mentioned stop control selection means. The term, “type of control” or “control type,” refers to selections of controlling. Here, the stopping operation and the stop table may be included in the selections.

[0019] With this invention, an electronic shutter, which may be composed of a liquid crystal film, is disposed in front of reels, and shielding of the reel parts is controlled in accordance with the game conditions. The variable display means includes a varying display device, which may be composed of one or more reels.

[0020] Since the above arrangement enables displaying of just a display area, which is to be displayed in an enhancing manner to a player in accordance with the game conditions, and enables the other display areas to be shielded, information can be transmitted infallibly to the player without being affected by the position of installation of the display device, brightness of a lamp, etc.

[0021] Furthermore, with a second embodiment of this invention, the gaming machine comprises special game control means for generating a special gaming state that is advantageous to a player based on a predetermined condition. Then, the above-mentioned shielding control means actuates the above-mentioned shielding means in the above-mentioned special gaming state.

[0022] With an embodiment to be described below, the Super Time (ST) gaming state, in which an appropriate stopping order is indicated, is cited as a special state that is advantageous to a player, and in this Super Time (ST) gaming state, the stopping order is indicated by putting the electronic shutter in a transmitting state at the display area of a reel that is to be stopped and in a shielding state at the display areas of other reels.

[0023] With the above arrangement, the present arrangement enables the Super Time (ST) gaming state to be completed without movement of the sight line from the image display device, on which the stopping order is displayed, to the reels, thus alleviating the degree of fatigue of the player.

[0024] Furthermore, a third embodiment of this invention is characterized in that the above-mentioned shielding means may comprise a shutter, which may be composed of an electronic shutter. The shutter may be formed in a substantially flat shape.

[0025] With the embodiment to be described below, a liquid crystal film is cited as an example of an electronic shutter that is arranged to execute the switching between the transmitting and shielding states in accordance with voltage application states.

[0026] With the above arrangement, switching between the transmitting and shielding states can be performed instantaneously in accordance with the game conditions and since the shielded areas can be controlled by software, finer attraction control is enabled.

[0027] According to the present invention, a gaming machine including a display device comprises a substantially transparent panel disposed on the display device; an image display device for displaying an image, the image display device being provided behind the panel, so as to show the image visibly through the panel; a shutter being disposed behind the image display device; and a variable display device for displaying symbols varyingly, the variable display device being provided behind the shutter such that at least a portion of the symbols is shielded by the shutter, wherein the shutter is controlled such that the